Policy Group Recommendations for FY 2000

(Revised Draft November 18, 1999)

The FY 2000 Federal Bay Delta Act allocated $30 million dollars to the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The following table outlines the Policy Group recommendation for use of that funding. The recommendation is based on an Interim Science Panel recommendation with input from members of the Ecosystem Roundtable and Bay Delta Advisory Council. This package needs to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior prior to developing contracts for the projects and programs described below.

Project Title	Amount
99-A101 Sacramento River Small Diversion Fish Screen Program	$312,700
99-A110 City of Redding Water Utility Fish Screen Rehabilitation	$495,400
99-A119 Maxwell Irrigation District Tuttle Pump Relocation Project	$427,900
99-B102 Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Floodplain Acquisition	$1,984,320
99-B116 Canal Ranch Habitat Restoration Phase II	$131,980
99-B126 Subreach/Site-Specific Management Planning on the Sacramento River	$519,000
99-B145 Culture of Delta Smelt Phase II	$431,606
99-B152 A Mechanistic Approach to Riparian Restoration -San Joaquin Basin	$223,666
99-B153 Merced River Corridor Restoration Project Phase III	$229,000
99-B165 Liberty Island Acquisition and Restoration Phase I	$2,623,043
99-B166 Focused Action to Develop Ecologically-based Hydrologic Models and Water Management Strategies in the San Joaquin Basin	$295,925
99-B192 McCormack Williamson Tract Phase II Restoration Planning	$355,000
99-B193 McCormack Williamson Tract Phase II Monitoring Program	$556,200
99-C100 Last Chance Creek Project	$980,000
99-C105 Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed Management/ Action Plan	$848,000
99-C108 Cottonwood Creek Watershed Monitoring and Assessment	$350,000
99-C140 Sonoma Creek Watershed Conservancy (1 year)	$489,923
99-D100 Real Time Water Quality Management	$652,330
99-D124 Dissolved Organic Carbon Release - Delta Wetlands Part 2	$1,000,000
99-E109 Treating Ballast Water Discharges at Existing Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants	$118,460

99-E110 Determining the Biological, Physical and Chemical Characteristics of Ballast Water Arriving in SF Bay	$375,750
99-E118 Arundo Donax Eradication and Coordination	$818,045
99-F105 Biological Assessment of Green Sturgeon	$205,013
Subtotal : $14,423,261 plus 3% administration ($432,698)	$14,900,000
Environmental Water Account ($9,000,000 carryover from previous year)	$1,000,000
South Delta Planning	$1,000,000
Special Support Programs	$4,000,000
General Oversight and Fund Reserve	$1,700,000
Science Support and Monitoring Program *****Deferred until December Policy Group meeting*****	***$7,400,000
Total	$30,000,000

Description of Recommended Projects

Twenty three projects are recommended for funding totaling over 14.5 million dollars. The Technical Review Panel comments refer to the original technical review panels that scored each of the proposals earlier this year. The Interim Science Panel refers to the group of scientists that put together an initial recommendation on September 27 and September 28, 1999.

99-A101 Sacramento River Small Diversion Fish Screen Program

Applicant: Family Water Alliance
Requested amount: $312,700
Recommended amount: $312,700

This program has been in place for two years and is a collaborative effort to screen small agricultural diversion along the Sacramento River involving landowners and numerous agencies and private foundations. It is important to screen the numerous small diversions on the Sacramento to minimize the impacts to the anadromous fish species. This program enlists landowners in voluntary programs that focus on protecting the resource.

99-A110 City of Redding Water Utility Fish Screen Rehabilitation

Applicant: City of Redding
Requested amount: $495,400
Recommended amount: $495,400

This project will install a positive barrier fish screen on the City of Redding intake structure at Pump Station #1. This will increase protection for priority species of juvenile fish within this section of the Sacramento River.

99-A119 Maxwell Irrigation District Tuttle Pump Relocation Project

Applicant:	Maxwell Irrigation District
Requested amount:	$427,900
Recommended amount:	**$427,900**

This project will relocate the Tuttle irrigation pumps onto the Maxwell Irrigation District's Sacramento River pumping plant. The pumping plant employs state-of-the-art screens which supply protection for the anadromous fish species in this area.

99-B102 Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Floodplain Acquisition

Applicant:	Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
Requested amount:	$1,984,320
Recommended amount:	**$1,984,320**

This project will preserve and restore approximately 280 acres of riparian floodplain on the Chinook salmon spawning reach of the Tuolumne River 12 miles east of Waterford. This project was scored highly by the Technical Review Panel and considered a great opportunity to protect habitat and provide flood control benefits along the Tuolumne. The Technical Review Panel noted that the ultimate land management agency still needs to be clarified. The Interim Science Panel observed that acquisition of this parcel was time-sensitive, could provide a gravel source for other restoration projects, and could be important for riparian/geofluvial processes.

99-B116 Canal Ranch Habitat Restoration Phase II

Applicant:	Department of Fish and Game
Requested amount:	$131,980
Recommended amount:	**$131,980**

The Canal Ranch Habitat Management Plan includes restoration of seasonal wetlands, riparian and shaded riverine aquatic habitats and enhancement of agricultural management for fish and wildlife on 3,070 acres located in the northeastern Delta, San Joaquin County. Phase II involves ground truthing the Plan with the results of Phase I. The Interim Science Panel concluded this was continuation of important work in a high priority area and had strong links to important agricultural issues. This effort would validate and demonstrate the concept of wildlife-friendly agricultural practices, providing benefits to agriculture and wildlife.

99-B126 Subreach/Site-Specific Management Planning on the Sacramento River

Applicant:	The Nature Conservancy
Requested amount:	$13,964,900
Recommended amount:	**$519,000**

The Nature Conservancy and others have been previously funded by CALFED to purchase land along the mainstem of the Sacramento River within the SB 1086 Sacramento River Conservation Area. This proposal was for additional acquisitions, baseline stewardship, and site-specific management planning. The Interim Science Panel recommended funding only the site-specific management planning part of this proposal. That management plan will address potential changes in hydrology and geomorphology, local economic impacts, and other issues associated with ongoing riparian protection and restoration work. This plan could result in important information for CALFED to better understand the complete suite of issues associated with riparian preservation and restoration. The Interim Science Panel felt it was important to begin the necessary site-specific planning efforts including local economic impacts including better understanding of potential 3rd party impacts associated with changes in land use.

99-B145 Culture of Delta Smelt: Phase II

Applicant:	UC Davis
Requested amount:	$431,606
Recommended amount:	**$431,606**

This project is developing a functional culture system for the threatened delta smelt. CALFED funded the first year of this project which ended in June of 1999. This project was scored highly by the Technical Review Panel. The Interim Science Panel also supported this funding for continued work on a high priority at risk species. Some of the values the Interim Science Panel identified included culture of larval and adult fish for toxicological studies and experimental fish for fish treadmill/screening studies.

99-B152 A Mechanistic Approach to Riparian Restoration -San Joaquin Basin

Applicant:	Stillwater Sciences
Requested amount:	$233,666
Recommended amount:	**$233,666**

This project will identify the physical and biological mechanisms affecting establishment of riparian vegetation in order to identify the most cost-effective strategies and sites for riparian protection and restoration. The Technical Review Panel commented that this could be a useful tool. The Interim Science Panel agreed this was an important effort for the San Joaquin Basin as the riparian resource and associated habitat values constitute the major focus for restoration effort

in the near term.

99-B153 Merced River Corridor Restoration Project Phase III

Applicant:	Stillwater Sciences
Requested amount:	$229,000
Recommended amount:	**$229,000**

CALFED previously funded Phase II of this project to conduct baseline analyses and identify important issues and concerns. Phase III will complete field and monitoring efforts, develop an overall Merced River Corridor Restoration Plan, and develop conceptual design for five priority projects from the Plan. The Technical Review Panel supported continued funding for the consensus building approach. The Interim Science Panel concluded the timing of the effort was ripe and could benefit from the ongoing "white paper" effort which is studying stream channel dynamics.

99-B165 Liberty Island Acquisition and Restoration Phase I

Applicant:	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Requested amount:	$13,495,605
Recommended amount:	**$2,623,043**

In 1997, CALFED provided funding to acquire the majority of Liberty Island. This proposal is to purchase two inholdings, to develop a restoration and monitoring plan for Liberty Island, and to purchase two additional properties. Restoration of this 5,209 acre parcel will provide tidal shallow-water, tidal emergent wetlands, seasonal wetlands, delta sloughs, and riparian habitat to benefit Delta smelt, winter-run Chinook salmon and other priority species. The Technical Review Panel and Interim Science Panel recommend funding the two inholding acquisitions and development of the restoration and monitoring plan. The Interim Science Panel observed that acquisition of the inholdings would provide greater flexibility in restoration planning and reduce future liability. The Technical Review Panel and Interim Science Panel did not recommend acquiring the other identified north delta parcels detached from Liberty Island at this time.

99-B166 Focused Action to Develop Ecologically-based Hydrologic Models and Water Management Strategies in the San Joaquin Basin

Applicant:	Natural Heritage Institute
Requested amount:	$295,925
Recommended amount:	**$295,925**

This project will develop state-of-the-art scientific approaches for developing water management

operations compatible with both environmental and other water supply objectives. Methods for identifying the flow regimes necessary to achieve ecological restoration objective without undesirable water supply impacts on water users will be demonstrated. The Interim Science Panel noted that this project would address several critical uncertainties related to natural flow regimes and issues associated with channel dynamics and sedimentation.

99-B192 McCormack-Williamson Tract Phase II Restoration Planning

Applicant:	Department of Water Resources
Requested amount:	$355,000
Recommended amount:	**$355,000**

CALFED recently funded the acquisition McCormack-Williamson Tract, a 1600 acre Delta island located in southwestern Sacramento County. This proposal will support the design and environmental documentation for restoration of the Tract. With purchase of the Tract final, the Interim Science Panel saw this as an integral part to restoration of this important area.

99-B193 McCormack-Williamson Tract Phase II Monitoring Program

Applicant:	UC Davis
Requested amount:	$556,200
Recommended amount:	**$556,200**

This project complements the above proposal by conducting the historic research and baseline studies necessary for restoration planning and development of a monitoring program for the McCormack-Williamson Tract. The Interim Science Panel concluded that it was critical to develop a good restoration and monitoring plan for this area.

99-C100 Last Chance Creek Watershed Restoration Project - Ferris Meadowview Reach

Applicant:	Feather River Coordinated Resources Management
Requested amount:	$980,000
Recommended amount:	**$980,000**

The Last Chance Creek Watershed is a 90,000 acre forest and meadow ecosystem in the headwater of the East Branch, North Fork Feather River. It contains the longest contiguous meadow complex (37 miles) in the Sierra Nevada drainage area of the Sacramento River. The project will restore 9.1 miles of channel and 4,330 acres of meadow by returning streamflow to abandoned remnant or reconstructed channels and rehabilitation of 1 mile of county road through relocation and/or surfacing. The Technical Review Panel scored this project highly and the Interim Science Panel concluded that this project could provide important information on the effects of meadow restoration in the upper watershed. One of the ecological uncertainties the

Interim Science Panel would like to see resolved is the linkage between upper watersheds and CALFED's objectives for the Bay-Delta system.

99-C105 Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed Management and Action Plan

Applicant:	Westside Resource Conservation District
Requested amount:	$848,000
Recommended amount:	**$848,000**

Through a Coordinated Resources Management Plan, best management practices outlined in the Panoche Silver Creek Watershed Assessment will be evaluated for the management of erosion and reduction of the sediment and contaminant load delivered from the upper watershed during high flow events. The results of these and other studies will be compiled into a watershed "Action Plan" to plan and implement future watershed management actions. This project has both ecosystem restoration and water quality benefits. The Technical Review Panel scored this project highly and the Interim Science Panel noted that this project had the potential to help answer important ecological question relative to selenium in the watershed and its relationship to the Bay-Delta system.

99-C108 Cottonwood Creek Watershed Monitoring and Assessment

Applicant:	Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group
Requested amount:	$935,000
Recommended amount:	**$350,000**

CALFED previously funded the development of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group, a landowner group which works with the local agencies and other stakeholders. This project will support the development of a watershed assessment to guide future activities within Cottonwood Creek. Because this is an important tributary, the Interim Science Panel recommended funding a year of continued work in this watershed.

99-C140 Sonoma Creek Watershed Conservancy

Applicant:	Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Requested amount:	$702,633
Recommended amount:	**$489,923**

The Sonoma Creek Watershed Conservancy has a proven track record of successful watershed planning and implementation work, including work previously funded by CALFED. This project will implement riparian and aquatic habitat restoration activities and continue watershed stewardship and education programs in the Sonoma Creek watershed. The Interim Science Panel recommended funding one year of continued activities.

99-D100 Real Time Water Quality Management - San Joaquin River

Applicant:	Grassland Water District
Requested amount:	$652,330
Recommended amount:	**$652,330**

The Grassland Basin contains the largest contiguous wetland in the State of California. This project proposes monitoring, modeling and adaptive management of field operations, in cooperation with the currently funded CALFED San Joaquin River Real-Time Water Quality Management Project to coordinate seasonal wetland drainage with assimilative capacity. This project was scored highly by the Technical Review Panel and the Interim Science Panel considered the project an important environmental water quality action for this area.

99-D124 Dissolved Organic Carbon Release - Delta Wetlands Part 2

Applicant:	US Geological Survey
Requested amount:	$2,740,040
Recommended amount:	**$1,000,000**

Part one of this project was funded earlier this year by CALFED which focuses on the quality of organic carbon released by wetlands and agricultural operations. This proposal focuses on the amounts of organic carbon released by wetlands and agricultural operations and what management strategies may be used to limit the introduction of organic carbon into Delta waters. The Interim Science Panel concluded that it was important to study both the quality and amount of organic carbon to gain comprehensive insight into the issue. This is a high priority question to be answered for the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

99-E109 Treating Ballast Water Discharges at Existing Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants

Applicant:	San Francisco Estuary Institute
Requested amount:	$118,460
Recommended amount:	**$118,460**

This project investigates the possibility of treating ballast water in municipal wastewater treatment plants, the cost of such activities, and the effectiveness of standard municipal wastewater treatment to remove or kill ballast water organisms using benchtop wastewater treatment models. The Interim Science Panel supported additional projects focusing on non-native invasive species, and the impacts and control of non-native invasive species in ballast

water has not been previously been funded by CALFED.

99-E110 Determining the Biological, Physical and Chemical Characteristics of Ballast Water Arriving in SF Bay

Applicant:	San Francisco Estuary Institute
Requested amount:	$375,750
Recommended amount:	**$375,750**

The discharge of ships' ballast water is probably the greatest single source of new introductions into aquatic habitats, and ballast water arriving in the Bay and Delta has never been sampled. This project will compile and analyze shipping data and sample ballast water to develop data on the types, sizes, and concentrations of organisms arriving in the Bay/Delta ports. The Interim Science Panel supported this project which could provide valuable information on this area of critical uncertainty.

99-E118 *Arundo Donax* Eradication and Coordination

Applicant:	Sonoma Ecology Center
Requested amount:	$818,045
Recommended amount:	**$818,045**

This project directs funds to partners in six watersheds to carry out eradication of *Arundo donax*, the state's most invasive riparian weed. This proposal was scored highly by the Technical Review Panel and was the most comprehensive proposal on *Arundo*. The Interim Science Panel supported the region-wide coordination proposed and noted that numerous volunteer resources would be leveraged to address this non-native invasive species issue.

99-F105 Biological Assessment of Green Sturgeon Phase II

Applicant:	UC Davis
Requested amount:	$205,013
Recommended amount:	**$205,013**

This project continues work focusing on the biological characteristics and key areas of scientific uncertainty of the Green Sturgeon and its habitats. The Technical Review Panel scored this project highly and the Interim Science Panel supported continued funding to gain additional information on this high priority species.